Indian Mission in Rome

2285. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints including from Members of Parliament have been received against corruption and inefficiency prevailing in the Indian Mission in Rome;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the involved persons and to stop corrupt practices in foreign offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Complaints of inefficiency and corruption in the Indian Mission in Rome have been received from Shri B.S. Ramoowalia, Hon'ble M.P. and the public.

(b) The complaints related to the desire of a large number of persons who wanted to be immediately provided with duplicate passports in lieu of passports they had claimed to have lost before Italy announced an amnesty for illegal residents. There were also allegations of corruption in this regard.

(c) The complaints were thoroughly investigated. It was found that the complaints were not based on actual facts. Hence, no action against any official was found necessary.

Indian steps towards de-escalation with Pakistan

2286. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is taking all steps towards de-escalation with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the groundwork prepared by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Following General

Musharraf's commitment of 27th May and 6th June, 2002 to end cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, Government announced on 10th June, 2002 the lifting of overflight ban on Pakistani aircraft that was imposed in January, 2002 after the 13th December, 2001 attack on our Parliament.

On 16th October, 2002, the Cabinet Committee on Security, after deliberation and upon examination of all aspects of the continued deployment of the armed forces along the border with Pakistan and following the successful completion of elections to the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly which capped their achievements, decided that as the Armed Forces had, with great distinction, achieved the objectives assigned to them, they now be asked to re-deploy from positions on the international border, without impairing their capacity to respond decisively to any emergency. However, there will be no lowering of the vigil in Jammu & Kashmir.

As cross border infiltration and terrorist violence has not ended, rest of the diplomatic and other measures taken against Pakistan are still in place. India's further response would be based on implementation of Pakistan's commitment to end cross border infiltration and terrorism.

Report of the Second Labour Commission

†2287. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of the Second Labour Commission;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has expressed concern regarding creation of less job opportunities as against the requirement for the last few years in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether the Commission has identified certain areas regarding creation of more job opportunities to remove unemployment in future; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.